

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FACT SHEET

RENEWAL OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0022730)

FOR

CITY OF FORTUNA MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Humboldt County

The City of Fortuna has applied for renewal of waste discharge requirements to discharge treated wastewater under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from the Fortuna Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The Regional Water Board will consider adoption of new waste discharge requirements at its November 29, 2000 Regional Water Board meeting at the Eureka City Council Chambers, 531 K Street, Eureka, California.

Wastewater flows from the City of Fortuna's WWTF range between 1.0 million gallons per day (mgd) during dry weather and 5 mgd during winter storms. The design flow of the WWTF is 1.5 mgd. Wastewater is treated to secondary treatment standards using an activated sludge process. Secondary clarifier effluent is chlorinated and dechlorinated prior to discharge into the Eel River at the City of Fortuna. This discharge is designated as SN 001. Wastewater is discharged to a percolation pond on an exposed gravel bar during summer months.

During winter storm events, wastewater flows exceeding 3.0 mgd are diverted to two large storm water holding/oxidation ponds. When wastewater flows recede below 3.0 mgd, wastewater in the holding/oxidation ponds is pumped through the activated sludge treatment units for treatment and discharge to the Eel River through SN 001. Some prolonged winter storm events cause wastewater flows to exceed 3.0 mgd for extended periods, filling the holding/oxidation ponds to capacity. Wastewater that exceeds capacity of the holding/oxidation ponds has been treated to meet effluent standards for waste stabilization ponds and is chlorinated and dechlorinated prior to discharge to Strongs Creek near its confluence with the Eel River. This discharge is designated as SN 002.

Effluent limitations for conventional pollutants are based on secondary effluent standards pursuant to 40 CFR 133.102. The total suspended solids limit for discharges from SN 002 is authorized by 40 CFR 133.103(c) and the Environmental Protection Agency's determination for waste stabilization ponds at 43 Federal Register 53161. Additional effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and discharge prohibitions are based upon water quality objectives and receiving water limitations contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

The discharge does not contain nonpriority pollutants at levels that will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any water quality standards. This finding is based in part on the summer discharge prohibition and the 100:1 dilution requirements for winter discharge.

Effluent limitations and toxic and pretreatment effluent standards are established pursuant to Sections 208(b), 301, 302, 303(d), 304, 306, 307, and 403 of the Clean Water Act and amendments thereto. The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (also known as the State Implementation Plan or SIP). This policy establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria promulgated by the EPA through the National Toxics Rule (NTR) and through the California Toxics Rule (CTR). The proposed NPDES permit implements provisions of the SIP.

The NPDES permit contains a monitoring and reporting program determine:

1. Compliance with Effluent Limitations, Receiving Water Limitations, and Discharge Prohibitions;
2. What priority pollutants, if any, may require water quality-based effluent limitations; and
3. Whether or not the discharge is toxic to aquatic organisms in the receiving waters.

Copies of the draft permit may be obtained by contacting the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, at the address above.

For any additional information or questions in this matter, please contact:

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